

Lunesdale Rural District Council



REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year
1964

Lunesdale Rural District Council

REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year
1964



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29746565>

CONTENTS

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA. *Page 9*

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE
AREA *Page 15*

SECTION C.

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
DISEASES *Page 21*

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA *Page 27*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1964

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lunesdale Rural District Council:*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present, for your consideration, the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Lunesdale Rural District in respect of the year 1964.

The estimated population at mid-year 1964 was 9,200, an increase of 217 on the previous year and 976 more than the 1961 census figure.

There were 188 live births, equivalent to an adjusted birth-rate of 20.4 per 1,000 population, the comparable rate for England and Wales being 18.4 per 1,000.

Deaths from all causes totalled 188, an increase of 7 over the previous year. The adjusted death rate was 12.1 per 1,000 population which may be compared with the national rate of 11.3 and the county rate of 13.2 per 1,000.

Three infant deaths occurred during 1964, the resultant mortality rate being 16.0 per 1,000 live births, compared with the figure of 20.0 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

The incidence of infectious diseases was low during the year. Nevertheless, attention is drawn to the need to raise the general level of immunity in the population through a much fuller use of the various immunisation and vaccination services available if public alarm associated with local epidemics are to be avoided.

The routine inspection and supervision of water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal systems, refuse collection, housing, food hygiene, etc., are still vitally important to the maintenance of a healthy environment.

In regard to water supplies a further opportunity will present itself in 1965 to introduce the benefits of fluoridation. A recent circular made it clear that the Ministry of Health is prepared to indemnify any local health authority or statutory water undertaking in the event of legal proceedings being instituted against them. The safety of fluoridation has now been placed beyond doubt.

Improvement schemes qualifying for grants were completed in respect of 41 houses in comparison with 15 in the previous year. One hundred and thirty-three houses were erected by private builders, mostly in Halton, Caton, Nether Kellet and Over Kellet.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS

The social conditions of the District are reasonably satisfactory and the chief occupations of the inhabitants are :—

Agriculture

Manufacture of Textiles

Lime Stone Quarrying

Brick manufacture

There is no unemployment in the District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1964

Live Births

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate...	...	88	94	182
Illegitimate	...	1	5	6
		89	99	188

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	20.4
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	20.4
Proportion (per cent) of illegitimate live births to total live births	...	...	...	3.3

Still Births

Number registered	...	0	2	2
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births				10.5
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	...	89	101	190

Infant Deaths

Total infant deaths (under 1 year)...	1	2	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			16.0
Total infant deaths (under 4 weeks)	1	1	2
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	...		10.6
Total infant deaths (under 1 week)	1	1	2
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	...		10.6
STILL BIRTHS & DEATHS UNDER 1 WEEK		1	3
Peri-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births...	...		21.1

DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES ... Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... Nil

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES ... 63 55 118

Crude death rate per 1,000 population		12.8
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 popn.		12.1

<i>Deaths from Certain Specified Diseases</i>	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population
Cancer (all forms) ...	19	2.07
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	0	0

**TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1964**

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	—	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	5	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	3	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	—	1
Diabetes ...	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	9	11	20
Coronary disease, angina ...	18	9	27
Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—	—
Other heart disease ...	5	7	12
Other circulatory disease ...	1	2	3
Influenza ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	4	5
Bronchitis ...	6	1	7
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea...	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	10	14
Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	1	2
All other accidents ...	1	1	2
Suicide ...	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war...	—	—	—
TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES ...	63	55	118

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1964 AND THE PERIOD 1959—1963

YEAR	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality		
	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Total		Neo-natal
									Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1964	20.4*	188	118	12.8*	2	10.5	Nil.	Nil.	3	16.0	2
1963	18.8	166	111	12.5	5	29.2	Nil.	Nil.	2	12.0	2
1962	18.4	158	103	12.0	2	12.5	Nil.	Nil.	2	12.7	1
1961	17.1	142	96	11.6	3	20.7	Nil.	Nil.	1	7.0	7.0
1960	16.6	132	86	10.8	2	22.2	Nil.	Nil.	2	15.2	2
1959	15.8	121	114	14.9	3	24.2	Nil.	Nil.	4	33.1	3
AVERAGE 5 yrs 1959-1963	—	—	17.3	—	12.4	—	21.7	Nil.	—	16.0	—
											13.1

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 20.4 per 1,000
 death-rate (comparability factor, 0.94) = 12.1 per 1,000

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Ambulance Service

Lancaster Ambulance Station. Telephone Lancaster 3311.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948

No 12 Area Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.
Area Children's Officer : Miss F. M. JAY, B.A., 43 West Road,
Lancaster. Telephone 3020.

Clinics

1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

- (a) Hornby, Village Institute, alternate Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (b) Caton Institute, alternate Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (c) Halton, Congregational Church Hall, alternate Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m. (alternating with Caton).
- (d) Carnforth, Market Street, Every Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.

2. DENTAL

- (a) Market Street, Carnforth : Every Thursday, by arrangement.
- (b) Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : Daily, by arrangement.

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

- (a) Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis can be provided free of charge at Child Welfare Centres within the district. Appointments arranged as required.
- (b) The same services can also be provided free by the General Medical Practitioners in the area.

4. OPHTHALMIC

Market Street, Carnforth : Alternate Wednesday mornings.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC

Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : By arrangement.

6. MINOR AILMENTS

Market Street, Carnforth : Friday mornings, 9-30—11-30 a.m.

7. SPEECH THERAPY

Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : Mondays, by appointment.
Ryelands House, Lancaster : Wednesdays, by appointment.

Convalescence

Arrangements can be made through the Divisional Health Office, Station Road, Lancaster, for the admission of children and adults to convalescent or recuperative homes. This service is not normally free of charge.

Health Visiting Service

Full time nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire County Council to carry out duties as health visitors and school nurses.

Home Help Service

Home Helps are available to provide help in the home for persons who are incapacitated by illness, old age and infirmity, confinement, etc. Those who can afford to pay for this service are required to do so according to their means.

Home Nursing and Midwifery

Full time nurse/midwives, who combine the duties of district nursing and domiciliary midwifery, are available within the District.

Laboratory Service

Samples of water, milk and specimens in connection with infectious diseases are dealt with at the Public Health Laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary. Transport of samples to Preston is carried out by agreement with the Public Health Department, Lancaster City Corporation.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst at County Hall, Preston.

Mental Health Service

Mental Welfare Officers working in close co-operation with general practitioners and consultant psychiatrists provide supervision and after-care for the mentally subnormal living in the community and for mentally ill persons after discharge from hospital.

A Junior and an Adult Training Centre at Lancaster and Torriss-holme respectively provide day care and training for the mentally handicapped and a Junior Hostel is also available for permanent or short-stay cases.

Welfare Services

The following Welfare Services are provided by the Lancashire County Council and are administered by Divisional Health Committee No. 2.

(1) RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

For elderly persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them, permanent accommodation is provided in the following Homes for the Aged : Dolphinlee, Fair Elms and The Laurels at Lancaster; the Empress at Morecambe; Moor Platt and the Hermitage at Caton. Short term care for two weeks is also available in certain circumstances.

(2) CARE OF AGED PERSONS IN THEIR OWN HOMES

The domiciliary services provided by the County Council have been expanded, where necessary, so as to provide adequate home nursing, help in the home and general support in conjunction with local voluntary organisations, to enable old people to continue to live in their own homes. A laundry service and a free chiropody service are also available.

(3) HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Registers are maintained for the blind and the deaf for whom certain welfare services are made available through the agency of voluntary organisations. Other classes of handicapped persons, including cripples, epileptics and spastics are provided with occupational therapy, chiropody, transport to social centres, holidays, etc.

(4) HOMES FOR DISABLED AND/OR OLD PERSONS

There are 6 homes of this nature in the division, all managed by voluntary bodies or private individuals. These homes are registered and inspected regularly by the Divisional Medical Staff.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1964

Diseases	Total Cases	Age Period — Years											
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	17	1	2	2	4	1	4	3	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Other	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total Cases..	28	3	2	3	6	2	6	3	1	1	—	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS—1964

Age Groups.	Notifications.				Deaths.	
	New Cases.		Inward Transfer.			
	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.
0-	1	—	—	—	—	—
5- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
10- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
15- ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
20- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
25- ...	—	—	1	—	—	—
35- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
45- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
55- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and Over	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	1	1	—	—	—

TOTAL INCIDENCE

Notifications of infectious diseases decreased from 176 in 1963 to 28 in 1964, and this was almost entirely due to a big decline in measles from 169 to 17.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION SCHEMES

Under the National Health Service a comprehensive immunisation and vaccination service is provided free of cost. At present protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis is available for children at school clinics, and child welfare centres. This service is also available from family doctors, except for vaccination against tuberculosis.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus (lockjaw) by means of a triple vaccine is simple, quick and readily available and the number of children in Lunesdale so protected over the past six years is shown on page 25. Despite the fact that vaccination against poliomyelitis has been greatly simplified with the introduction in 1962 of the new Sabin vaccine, taken by mouth, there has been no increase in the number of persons protected against this disease. Smallpox is fortunately not common in this country but with the increase in air transport the risk of infected persons entering the country undetected is much greater with the consequent increased probability of smallpox outbreaks. In spite of intensive propaganda by the medical and nursing staff the number of children being vaccinated against this disease remains low and is a matter of serious concern.

In Health Division No. 2 at the end of 1964 the vaccination "acceptance rates" for children under two years of age were as follows:—Diphtheria, 78 per cent; whooping cough, 78 per cent; poliomyelitis, 64 per cent; smallpox, 45 per cent; Although these figures are higher than those for the Administrative County as a whole there is still much room for improvement.

In recent years outbreaks of infectious diseases have caused considerable public alarm—in 1962 smallpox in Bradford and elsewhere in 1964 typhoid in Aberdeen and much more recently "polio" and paratyphoid in Lancashire. Whenever there is a local outbreak of one of these diseases vaccination queues tend to appear, and this is unfair to the doctors, the health authority and to those responsible for the supply of vaccines. Panic queues are the evidence of responsibilities neglected and possibly also of our failure in health education.

IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT 1960 - 1964

Number of individuals who completed a full course
of primary immunisation

Age Groups	Diphtheria			Whooping Cough			Tetanus		
	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total
1964	167	9	176	167	2	169	168	12	180
1963	159	10	169	159	—	159	159	12	171
1962	142	8	150	141	1	142	142	8	150
1961	136	15	151	133	1	134	136	14	150
1960	141	10	151	136	8	144	136	9	145

Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement
injection

Age Groups	Diphtheria All ages	Whooping Cough All ages	Tetanus All ages
1964	314	82	242
1963	222	52	161
1962	208	32	110
1961	205	14	83
1960	162	10	24

POLIOMYELITIS

Number of Persons who have completed a Primary Course
of Vaccination in 1964

Age Groups	0-15 years	15-40 years	Over 40 yrs.	Total
	184	4	4	192

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Since early 1961, the Lune Valley Water Board has been the responsible authority for the supply of water throughout the district and approximately 80% of the houses in the area are provided with a piped water supply from public mains.

Farms and other outlying properties served from their own private supplies are mostly provided with piped supplies into the houses and farm buildings and as is to be expected in a dry season, some of these supplies fail and difficulties arise.

Samples from those supplies serving dairy farms are obtained from time to time by the Milk Production Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the approval of the Council is sought where such supplies are found to be suitable on bacteriological examination.

The chief source of supply in the district is obtained from the Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere Aqueduct which passes through several parishes and tappings of the aqueduct are obtained at five points at which mains are connected.

Two local sources are also used to serve properties in the parishes of Hornby, Wray, Claughton and Caton, the latter being augmented by a tapping in the Thirlmere Aqueduct.

A small number of houses in the Quernmore valley use untreated water from one of the Board's reservoirs and treated water is also obtained from mains serving Lancaster to a few properties near the boundary of the City.

No new schemes were brought into operation in the district during the year but alterations and improvements to the two local supplies mentioned above are being planned to provide more suitable supplies for the villages on these schemes in the near future. No major mains laying were carried out during the year, but mains have been extended in several instances to serve new properties, 133 new houses being connected.

An estimate of the supplies to properties in the various parishes is given in the following table which also shows the population served at the end of the year.

Parish	From Public Mains		Private Supplies	
	No. of Houses	Population Served	No. of Houses.	Population Served
Arkholme-with-Cawood ...	75	192	16	68
Borwick	49	130	4	12
Burrow-with-Burrow ...	44	125	7	17
Cantsfield	21	74	1	5
Caton-with-Littledale ...	828	2,350	42	126
Claughton	38	101	2	12
Gressingham	47	125	1	4
Halton-with-Aughton ...	642	1,860	4	16
Hornby-with-Farleton ...	173	460	3	14
Ireby	18	56	4	15
Nether Kellet	132	400	3	8
Over Kellet	177	560	14	40
Leck	55	168	5	17
Melling-with-Wrayton ...	68	210	—	—
Quernmore	95	300	88	282
Roeburndale	—	—	21	80
Tatham	57	183	59	209
Tunstall	28	70	5	15
Wennington	42	136	1	4
Whittington	83	240	19	56
Wray-with-Botton	126	380	22	90
Total Whole District ...	2,800	8,120	321	1,090

EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Bacteriological

Samples of water from various sources are obtained from time to time for bacteriological examination. These specimens are dealt with at the Public Health Laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary and transport of specimens is carried out by arrangement with the Health Department of the Lancaster City Corporation.

(1) *Raw Water*: Private Supplies :

No. of specimens submitted	...	...	...	5
No. found to be satisfactory	...	...	...	3
No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	...	...	2

(2) *Treated Water*: Public Supplies :—

No. of specimens submitted	...	...	...	27
No. found to be satisfactory	...	...	...	18
No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	...	...	9

Reports were also received from the Public Health Laboratory in respect of 108 samples of water submitted by the Water Board in addition to the above and these are summarised below :—

No. of specimens submitted	...	...	...	108
No. found to be satisfactory	...	...	...	70
No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	...	...	38

Owners of private supplies and the Water Board are notified of the results of these examinations and where necessary, owners of these private sources are advised of the possible sources of contamination and the action thought to be necessary to clear up the pollution.

(b) Chemical Analysis

No specimens were submitted to the County Analyst at Preston who undertakes these examinations on the Council's behalf.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the past ten years new sewage treatment works and in some cases, new sewers, have been provided in Nether Kellet, Over Kellet, Hornby, Caton and Halton.

The two schemes serving Caton and Halton have now become overloaded owing to the rapid new development which has taken place in these villages and it has become necessary to consider the question of providing additional treatment plant for these villages. It is proposed to increase the size of the Caton works to cope with approximately a 50% increase whilst at Halton an additional new works is planned. This new works has been designed in conjunction with the War Department for the treatment of sewage from the Halton Bridging Camp and it is hoped that Ministry approval will be forthcoming so that work can commence during mid-1965.

Work commenced on the provision of a new works and sewer extensions in the village of Wray in October and reasonable progress has been maintained.

A new section of sewers was laid in Halton where previously all drainage passed into private septic tanks. This has led to the connection of 24 houses to the sewers for the first time and the resultant abolition of these septic tanks.

The construction of a new works and new sewers for the village of Whittington has again been considered following complaints of

nuisances arising on the site of the old septic tanks for a portion of the village. It has been decided to revise the scheme where necessary before re-submitting the plans to the Ministry, and it is hoped that an early approval will be given to allow the work to proceed in the near future.

New septic tanks are still being constructed to serve properties where no sewers are available where improvements are carried out. Very few owners availed themselves of the septic tank emptying scheme during the year although the fee charged for this work is very small.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

An estimate is given below of the type of sanitary accommodation available at properties in the district at the end of the year :—

Number of Pail Closets ...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Number of Privy Middens ...	...	...	...	...	...	180
Number of Closets attached ...	...	...	...	...	...	240
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System ...	2720					
Number of Fresh Water Closets ...	...	...	...	...	...	3221
Number of Moveable Ashbins ...	...	...	...	...	...	3615

Conversions during 1964:

Number of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets...	31
Number of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets ...	—
Number of Fixed Receptacles to Moveable Ashbins	18

The conversion of the old-type convenience depends upon the provision of sewers in the villages but in isolated premises the assistance available under the Standard Improvement Grants schemes enables owners to provide water-borne sanitation in lieu of pail closets and privies.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

All parts of the district are served by the refuse collection vehicles, an 8 to 10 days interval being maintained with the exception of outlying farm premises which are visited chiefly on request.

The Council employ nine workmen on this service, one of whom acts as a general foreman. The foreman is also employed as the Council's Rodent Operator and transfers to full time refuse collection

during holiday periods or when other employees are on sick leave. Three vehicles are in use on the work, two of 12 cubic yards capacity and one fore-and-aft tipper of 18 cubic yards which is used in the more urbanised part of the district where most of the new development is taking place.

Refuse was removed from 124,846 dustbins and 438 privy middens and pails, the vehicles travelled 22,161 miles on this work during the year.

Two tips are in use for the disposal of refuse, one near Over Kellet and one near Whittington, and efforts are being made to find another suitable site in the more eastern portion of the district which will enable vehicle mileage to be reduced.

Waste-paper, rags, etc., are still collected for salvage and a bonus is paid to the workmen on the sale of these materials, 30 tons of paper and 11½ cwt. of rags being disposed of during the year.

HOUSING

New housing development is taking place in various parishes but it is principally in the Caton and Halton area where speculative building is taking place; 133 new houses were completed during the year, all being built privately.

It is estimated that there were 3,113 occupied houses at the end of the year and the general standard of properties in the district is reasonably good. With regard to older properties or those erected prior to 1916, these are usually constructed of stone with slated roofs but houses erected since that date are generally of brick construction with slated or tiled roofs, the external walls being rough cast or cement rendered.

These older-type houses, as is to be expected, show varying signs of dampness owing to the lack of damp-proof courses but owner-occupiers of these houses tend to use one of the many preparations now on the market to help overcome dampness.

As stated in previous reports, the provisions of the Improvement Grant Schemes are quite well known in the district and owners are advised as to the possibilities of obtaining grants when work is contemplated. Many enquiries have been dealt with during the year and the consequent demand on officers' time is felt to be well worth while. The majority of the applications come from owner-occupiers who take the opportunity of reconditioning the property during a change of ownership and before the houses are re-occupied. Efforts are made

to look into proposals with owners or representatives before schemes are submitted to the Public Health Committee and by so doing, delays in dealing with the applications are avoided.

During the year 33 applications were received and approval was given to 3 Discretionary and 30 Standard Grants. Work was completed on 4 Discretionary Schemes, two of which provided additional separate units of accommodation, and 37 Standard Grant Schemes. There is no doubt that modernisation of these older-type houses is a worthwhile task which should be encouraged as much as possible.

As a result of representations to the Council, four unfit houses were demolished and one closed during the year, the tenants of these houses being re-housed by the Council on one or other of their estates.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES

Number of premises inspected during the year ...	89
Number of visits made for the purpose	127
Number of premises found not in all respect fit ...	35
Number of premises rendered fit by informal action	49
Number of houses demolished	4
Number of houses closed on owner's undertaking...	1

SHOPS, OFFICES AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

Most of the shops in the district are small domestic businesses, the employees being members of the proprietor's family. Periodic visits are made to these premises and no action has been deemed necessary.

With the coming into operation of the Shops, Offices and Railway Premises Act, applications were received for registration from the occupiers of 6 Offices, 16 Retail Shops, 9 Catering Establishments and 1 Fuel Storage premises. Visits were made to several of these properties and at the end of the year the position was still under review.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the area, all meat being purchased wholesale by the local butchers from either Lancaster, Morecambe or Kirkby Lonsdale, the quality being of a good standard.

Food preparing premises are regularly visited and the standard of cleanliness is relatively high as these premises, similar to shops, are small domestic businesses and foodstuffs handled with greater care than in large premises.

The provision and maintenance of refrigeration cabinets in these premises continues as a result of the ever-increasing demand for pre-package frozen foodstuffs and no complaints have been received regarding the quality of this type of food.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Almost the whole of the milk produced in the area is removed to dairies outside the district for processing and it is possible to purchase pasteurised milk in the larger villages. Pasteurising takes place outside the district and all dirty bottles are returned to these dairies for sterilising and cleansing.

Nearly all the milk supplied to schools is obtained from a dairy in Lancaster where pasteurising takes place and this milk is regularly sampled by members of the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Samples of milk from 22 cows were submitted for bacteriological examination and one cow giving milk showing the presence of brucella organisms was removed from a herd for slaughter.

SCHOOLS

Minor improvements were carried out at various schools in the district, but at two schools, more modern toilet facilities are still to be provided. Plans were, however, prepared for alterations at Whittington School which included new toilet facilities and it is hoped that work will be commenced in the very near future.

RODENT CONTROL

As previously mentioned the foreman in control of the refuse collection services is employed on a part-time basis on Rodent Control. This work includes the inspection of all premises in the district as well as the Council's refuse tips and sewage works sites.

Treatment is provided free of cost to private householders but business premises and farms are treated, wherever possible, by contracts for a period of twelve months based on the cost of the time and materials likely to be used on such premises.

Sewerage systems are treated in accordance with Ministry policy twice each year and sewage works sites and Council refuse tips kept under strict observation and treated where necessary.

Details of this work are set out below.

TYPE OF PROPERTY	Non-Agricultural			Agri-cultural	
	Dwelling Houses	All Other			
No. of properties in district	2759	66	442		
No. of properties inspected	166	30	24		
Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections)	255	35	479		
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—					
Rats : major	Nil	Nil	Nil		
minor	Nil	8	56		
Mice : major	Nil	Nil	Nil		
minor	15	3	2		
No. of infested properties treated ...	62	12	52		
Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	108	35	479		
No. of "Block" control schemes carried out	5	Nil	Nil		

Sewer Treatment:

Total number of manholes baited	134
Number of manholes showing prebait take	14
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take (one or both days)	7
Number of manholes showing complete poison take	6
Number of manholes showing part poison take	58

Note: Warfarin used on second treatment.

FACTORIES ACTS

The 45 premises affected by this legislation were visited on 27 occasions during the year and two complaints regarding sanitary accommodation were received from H.M. Inspector. The owners of these premises were approached but the work was not completed at the end of the year.

JOHN B. BARBER & SON
PRINTERS AND STATIONERS
16, NEW ST.
LANCASTER.